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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Production and Marketing Administration  
State College, New Mexico

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NEW MEXICO

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

RESULTS OF BREAD MARGIN STUDY ANNOUNCED - Last year saw the reversal of the normal long-time trend in farm-to-retail margins for white flour and white bread, according to a recent Department of Agriculture study.

"Over a period of years," says the report, "the price farmers get for their wheat has tended to move in the same direction as the retail prices of flour and bread. However, between January and October, 1948, the U. S. average local market price of wheat dropped 30 percent; the retail price of flour dropped 15 percent; but the retail price of bread rose 0.7 percent. The marketing margin for flour decreased 15 percent, while the marketing margin for bread rose 9 percent."

In October, 1948, the U. S. Average retail price of a one-pound loaf of white bread was 14.5 cents. Of that amount, about 3 cents went to farmers ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  cents for wheat and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent for other ingredients), 0.8 cent to the miller, 9.7 cents to the baker and retailer, and the other cent was divided among elevators, transportation and other agencies, and the nonfarm cost of ingredients other than wheat.

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BRANNAN APPROVES TRADE AGREEMENT PROGRAM - "The necessary foreign counterpart of a long-term domestic agricultural program," is the way Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan described the reciprocal trade agreements program in expressing his approval of legislation to extend the authority of the President to negotiate foreign trade agreements.

"The farmers of this country," said the Secretary, "normally produce many commodities in greater quantities than are required for use in the United States. Any acceptable United States farm program, therefore, must be associated with a program for keeping open the channels of international trade in a manner that will permit United States agricultural products to compete abroad. The





American farmer must not have his products excluded from foreign markets by excessive tariffs and other barriers or discriminated against through preferences and other special deals between foreign governments.

"Agriculture is interested in the trade agreements program not only in connection with agricultural exports but also in connection with industrial exports .....Sales abroad of products of the American factory result in greater employment and consequently greater domestic demand for products of the American farm....

"In order that foreign countries may pay for our farm and factory products, they must obtain dollars.....The most important continuing source of dollars for our foreign customers is their sale of goods to us, that is, our imports.....

"Despite the difficult circumstances of international relations which prevailed between the original adoption of the Trade Agreements Act in 1934 and the beginning of the war, experience under the program in that period showed a consistent advantage to the American farmer. Our farm exports to countries with which we had trade agreements increased more than exports to other countries. Moreover, the exports of items on which tariff reductions had been obtained increased more than exports of other products. There was also an increase in imports. The agricultural commodities involved in the increase in imports were those needed either because they are not produced in the United States or are not produced here in sufficient quantity for United States needs. The importation of items directly in competition with American agricultural products increased relatively little.

"On the basis of experience under the program, there has been worked out a method of dealing with cases of unforeseen injury or threat of injury to domestic industry. This is the escape clause which...will be included in all reciprocal trade agreements to which the United States becomes a party."

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ASSISTANCE NECESSARY FOR CONSERVATION - Assistance to farmers as provided under the Agricultural Conservation Program is necessary to get the conservation job done in time, says \_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

The chairman quotes the following from a recent statement by Ralph S. Trigg, Administrator of the Production and Marketing Administration and President of the Commodity Credit Corporation:

"My feelings are strong about this basic conservation problem....We in FMA know that direct Government assistance to farmers -- incentive payments to cover part of the out-of-pocket costs -- are absolutely essential if adequate national conservation is to be achieved before it is too late. Conservation research is important; high technical standards are a 'must' in any sound program; education and demonstration will provide the needed background of understanding; but without financial assistance -- to stimulate immediate action and provide the incentive for a great majority of our farmers to conserve now -- the job just won't be done 'in our time.' There is so much at stake here, both for our farmers and for the Nation as a whole, that our Government and Congressional leaders, and the public as well, must be given a full understanding of the urgent need."

From the Secretary of Agriculture's annual report, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ quotes the following in support of his belief that assistance is necessary to get the conservation job done in time:

"Getting conservation practices actually applied on the land requires more than a desire to carry out conservation farming. Almost a third of the Nation's farmers in 1944 were tenants who had only a temporary interest in the land they were farming. Many landlords are interested only in the immediate financial return from the farm, and their lack of interest is an obstacle in getting conservation farming applied to tenant-operated farms."





"Then, too, only a small proportion of farmers have the financial resources required to install the conservation measures needed to protect their land fully. Many farms are operated by producers whose incomes are not adequate to cover the running expenses of the farm, family living costs, and an amount necessary to install needed conservation practices. In 1944, about 50 percent of the farmers in the country had gross incomes, including the value of food raised on the farm, of less than \$1,500. On many farms with a much greater gross income, the net income is relatively small. It has been estimated that, in 1948, about a third of the farmers had gross incomes of less than \$1,000."

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COUNTY ACA COMMITTEEMEN MEET - Farmer-elected ACA Committeemen are attending the State Conference of officials of the Production and Marketing Administration and County ACA Committeemen and Secretaries at State College, February 16-17-18, according to C. V. Hemphill, Chairman of the State PMA Committee. "William B. Crawley, Assistant PMA Administrator for Production will deliver a message on Committeemen Responsibilities during this period of adjustment from war to peacetime production. Mr. B.F. Vance, Chairman of the Texas State PMA Committee, who spent a year in Greece will describe agricultural conditions in that country," Mr. Hemphill stated.

Mr. Delmar Roberts, President of the New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau will talk about Agricultural Legislation. Other speakers of State and National prominence will speak on Marketing Quotas, Price Supports, Storage, Marketing, and Conservation.

Attending the conference from \_\_\_\_\_ County are \_\_\_\_\_ (ACA Secretaries, add the names of those from your county.) \_ \_

PMA COMMITTEES COOPERATING IN 'HAYLIFT OPERATION' - Assistance by Production and Marketing Administration farmer-committees has been offered to Governors of 10 states in the Western storm area, where livestock are threatened by blizzard conditions.

As instructed by Ralph S. Trigg, PMA Administrator, chairmen of State and county committees in the area are cooperating in obtaining information and in helping coordinate measures to effectively utilize all available feed supplies. States involved are Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado.

Reports on losses of livestock are fragmentary and incomplete, but, according to the Weather Bureau, losses are reported heavy in sections of Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and some adjacent areas. - - -



PRICE SUPPORTS COVER 2,110,545 BUSHEL'S OF STATE'S GRAIN - Farmers in New Mexico had put more than 2,110,545 bushels of grain under Government loans and purchase agreements as of January 31, C. V. Hemphill, Chairman of the New Mexico Production and Marketing Administration Committee announced today. For the Nation as a whole, the total exceeds 528 million bushels as of December 31, 1948 of which about 382 million are under loan and 146 million under purchase agreements. As of the same date, more than 6 million bushels of soybeans were under loan, and 4 million bushels under purchase agreements; about 1.2 million bushels of flaxseed were under loan, and 2.5 million under agreements.

December 31 was the closing date for loans and purchase agreements on wheat, oats, barley, rye, soybeans, dry edible peas, and flaxseed.

Corn purchase agreements will be available until March 31 in New Mexico. Grain sorghum loans and purchase agreements will be available through February 28.

National quantities of the various grains put under loans and purchase agreements through December 31 are as follows:

|                | <u>Loans</u><br>Bushels | <u>Purchase Agreements</u><br>Bushels |
|----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Wheat          | 235,337,879             | 108,012,154                           |
| Oats           | 14,204,310              | 8,391,739                             |
| Barley         | 28,638,344              | 17,317,283                            |
| Grain Sorghums | 18,712,193              | 1,325,948                             |
| Corn           | 84,941,187              | 10,081,958                            |
| Rye            | 747,716                 | 644,476                               |
|                | <u>382,581,629</u>      | <u>145,775,558</u>                    |

THE 1950 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM - Although 1949 is only about a month old, with County Agricultural Conservation Association offices busy finishing up the 1948 Agricultural Conservation Program and with farmers just getting started on the 1949 ACP, work on the 1950 program already is underway.

According to \_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ County Agricultural Conservation Committee, this is the time of the year when recommendations for the next year's program are made. The program for each year is developed from sug-





gestions and recommendations from each of the Nation's 3,030 agricultural counties which in turn reflect the needs and experience of farmers in the counties.

Every farmer is invited to make recommendations, says the chairman. In developing the program, he explains, only the most essential and practical practices can be included and final decisions must be based upon available funds.

The chairman explains the procedure as follows: recommendations from each county are considered along with the recommendations of all the other counties in the State by the State Production and Marketing Administration Committee and the agricultural specialists who make up the State Technical Committee. The recommendations from each State are sent to Washington for consideration in the national program.

Recommendations fall into three general categories, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ said:

1. Changes in the current program -- changes in practices or specifications/and the amount of assistance for practices now in the program.
2. Elimination of practices or provisions. When a practice is sufficiently established so that it will be carried on without assistance or there is no longer a need for it, the policy is to take it out of the program.
3. New practices. As science finds new and better methods of conservation or as changing conditions make new practices necessary, the recommendations for new practices are made.

Most of the practices and provisions are continued from year to year, the chairman explains, but this yearly opportunity to go over the program carefully and make suggestions for improvement, keeps the program flexible and in line with conservation progress and new developments.





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A BALANCED PRODUCTION BUDGET - Budgeting our land to produce what is needed without waste is just as important as budgeting our income to buy the things we need without waste, says \_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the County ACA Committee.

"Land must be used efficiently in the ever-continuing need for food," he explains, "and this means balanced production as against surpluses of one crop and too little of another -- or too much now and too little later on. It is not too early now for farmers to plan the use of their productive farmland in the years immediately ahead."

The safety of the country requires the stock-piling of food and fiber for occasional years of reduced production, he points out. But, when bins and cribs are full, land producing unneeded crops should be diverted to the production of others which are needed and to conservation uses which will assure continued abundant production in the future.

The County Chairman points out that the first step in soil and water conservation is to get the "curative" type of conservation practices into use to check soil and water erosion.

The next step is to help farmers carry out conservation practices that would build into the soil resistance to erosion and depletion. This includes practices which add humus to the soil and build up the productivity of the land.

The third step, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ says, is to use the land in the production of needed crops and not waste fertility on unneeded production.

These are the main features of the Agricultural Conservation and related programs now in effect, the chairman explains. It provides for budgeting the use of the land so that it is most effective in meeting current and future needs and for conserving our soil and water resources through conservation practices geared to balanced production.

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POTATO STOCKS UNUSUALLY LARGE - Stocks of potatoes in the hands of growers and local dealers in or near areas where produced were unusually large on February 1, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has announced. Severe January weather slowed down movement of potatoes in a number of producing areas, especially in the West.

Grower and dealer holdings of almost 109 million bushels exceeded those of a year ago by 18 percent but were 10 percent below the record holdings of February 1, 1947. These stocks do not include potato holdings for use as food, seed, or livestock feed on farms where grown and those released for livestock feed from Government purchases.

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WHEAT CROP PROSPECTS GOOD - Wheat crop prospects have improved during January, says the latest crop report of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Precipitation has been 4 to 6 times normal in most of the Great Plains wheat area and relief came to the sections of Oklahoma and Texas which had suffered from earlier drought.

The winter wheat crop, which averages about 75 percent of the total wheat crop will also benefit from the abundant moisture. "Many farmers are watching this crop closely," says W. Leslie Martin, Member of the State Production and Marketing Administration Committee. "If we have another big wheat crop it will add to the grain storage problem." Many farmers already are planning to provide additional storage to be ready for whatever lies ahead, Mr. Martin states.

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BALANCING BEEF PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION - Conservation of soil and water means using these resources in such a way as to give the greatest return in continued food and fiber production. This is the objective of the Agricultural Conservation Program, says A. D. Woofter, Acting Chairman of the State PMA Committee.

Referring specifically to what the Agricultural Conservation Program means in the range and pasture country, the acting chairman points out that it assists



THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE AREA OF THE RIVER  
The economic situation in the area of the river is characterized by a high degree of unemployment and a low level of production. The main reason for this is the lack of capital and the absence of a modern industrial base. The population is largely engaged in agriculture, which is highly dependent on the weather and the state of the soil. The government has not been able to provide the necessary support and investment for the development of the area. The result is a cycle of poverty and stagnation that has persisted for many years.

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ranchers and livestock producers to conserve soil and water on their land -- the foundation of conservation. Proper stocking is the key to range and pasture conservation. In support of this, he refers to experiments carried on at the Great Plains Experiment Station at Woodward, Oklahoma. Conservatively grazed range and pasture consistently resulted in greater gains per head than heavy grazed lands.

During the past winter (1947-48) moderately grazed pastures produced 47 percent more gain per head and 23 percent more gain per acre with 16 percent fewer cattle than on the overgrazed pastures.

The lightly grazed pastures showed to advantage over heavy grazed lands. They produced 60 percent more gain per head and equalled the heavy rate in gain per acre while using 18 fewer head of cattle per section of land.

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